

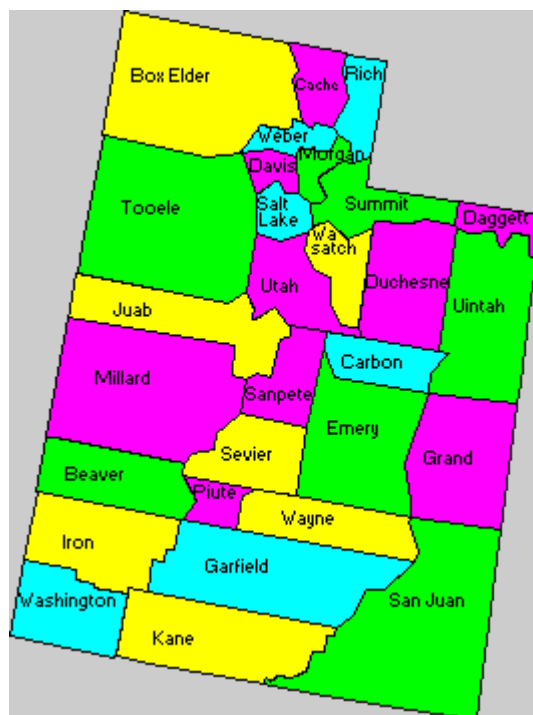
Office of National Drug Control Policy

Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

State of Utah

Profile of Drug Indicators

September 1999



ONDCP Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse staff compiled this profile by using the most recent data available from open sources. The data presented are as accurate as the sources from which they were drawn. The information contained in this profile should not be used to rank or compare States or jurisdictions, due to differences in data collection and reporting methods.

Utah

The following profile contains information on demographics, political figures, funding, programs, crime, drug use, drug trafficking, and enforcement statistics.

Demographics¹

Total Population, 1990: 1,722,850

Race/Ethnicity

| | |
|--|-----------|
| White: | 1,615,845 |
| Black: | 11,576 |
| American Indian/Eskimo/Aleut: | 24,283 |
| Asian or Pacific Islander: | 33,371 |
| Other: | 37,775 |
| Hispanic (included in distribution above): | 84,597 |

Total Population, 1998 estimate: 2,099,758

Politics

U.S. Senate: Orrin Hatch (R) Robert F. Bennett (R)
 U.S. Representatives: James V. Hansen Merrill Cook Chris Cannon
 Governor: Michael O. Leavitt (R)
 Lt. Governor: Olene S. Walker
 Attorney General: Jan Graham

Crime and Drug –Related Crime²

- Index of Crime, 1996-1997³

| Offense | 1996 | 1997 |
|-----------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Murder | 63 | 50 |
| Rape | 836 | 977 |
| Robbery | 1,377 | 1,408 |
| Aggravated Assault | 4,362 | 1,408 |
| Burglary | 16,965 | 18,335 |
| Larceny | 87,542 | 89,090 |
| Motor Vehicle Theft | 8,572 | 9,144 |
| Total Property Crime | 113,079 | 116,569 |
| Total Violent Crime | 6,638 | 6,878 |
| Index Crime Total | 119,717 | 123,447 |

- Arrests⁴

| | Total all classes | | Violent Crime | | Property Crime | | Drug Abuse Violations | |
|----------|-------------------|---------|---------------|-------|----------------|--------|-----------------------|-------|
| Year | 1996 | 1997 | 1996 | 1997 | 1996 | 1997 | 1996 | 1997 |
| Under 18 | 36,408 | 31,206 | 760 | 679 | 10,726 | 9,023 | 2,044 | 1,662 |
| Total | 120,600 | 102,541 | 2,244 | 1,832 | 21,337 | 18,652 | 11,114 | 7,780 |

| | | | | | | | | |
|----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| all ages | | | | | | | | |
|----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|

Adult and Juvenile Arrests for Drug Sale and Manufacturing, 1997⁵

| | Opium and Cocaine | Marijuana | Synthetic Narcotics | Other Dangerous Drugs |
|-----------|--------------------------|------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Adults | 1,037 | 3,115 | 381 | 118 |
| Juveniles | 17 | 113 | 14 | 10 |

Adult and Juvenile Arrests for Drug Possession, 1997⁶

| | Opium and Cocaine | Marijuana | Synthetic Narcotics | Other Dangerous Drugs |
|-----------|--------------------------|------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Adults | 1,604 | 3,167 | 419 | 1,962 |
| Juveniles | 40 | 1,296 | 55 | 343 |

Drugs⁷

- Rocky Mountain HIDTA law enforcement officials in Utah have expressed concern over the increase of the illegal alien Hispanic population due to drug connections with Mexico and the tendency of deportees to return quickly to the same area with little fear of the law.
- According to the FBI office in Salt Lake City, while no single drug distribution organization operates throughout the division, Mexican drug trafficking organizations are responsible for nearly all the cocaine, heroin and marijuana imported into Utah and have been identified as the number one crime problem addressed by the division.

Marijuana:

- Readily available throughout Utah. It ranks as the second most problematic drug in 61% of Rocky Mountain HIDTA agencies.
- Marijuana continues to be imported into Utah via vehicles travelling along major roadways.
- The Rocky Mountain Field Division of the DEA reports that commercial grade marijuana currently averages \$1,100 per pound. Sinsemilla ranges in price from \$1,00 to \$2,500 per pound. Local law enforcement sources report that marijuana averages \$1,400 per pound. Of the 14 jurisdictions responding to the price trend question on the 1998 Rocky Mountain HIDTA Threat Assessment Survey, nearly 43% indicated that the price of marijuana had remained stable in their respective areas. 58% of jurisdictions reported that the price had either increased or decreased depending on the location.
- Law enforcement sources and treatment providers' report that marijuana continues to be used by a wide number of people, crossing all age boundaries and ethnic groups.
- According to the Utah Division of Substance Abuse, clients admitted to treatment facilities have reported a gradual increase in marijuana usage over the past several years. In FY 1998, 17.6% of substance abuse clients in Utah acknowledged that marijuana or hashish was their primary drug. Of these clients, 74% were male and 26% were female. Only alcohol surpassed marijuana/hashish in preference. Of the 2,420 clients admitted for treatment who were age 18 or younger, almost 60%

reported that marijuana or hashish was their primary drug of choice. The fastest growing population admitted for treatment that reported marijuana as the favored drug is males under the age of 18.

- Marijuana continues to be the most frequently used drug reported by youth; past 30-day drug use reached between 9.6% and 12%. According to the Utah Youth Household Survey on Substance abuse, in 1995, 2.6% of respondents reported usage in the past month compared to 6% in 1997. Public high school students also indicate that the availability of illegal drugs on school property increased in 1997.
- Marijuana distribution in the northeastern regions of Utah, is predominately controlled by Caucasian organizations interested in the quality of marijuana. Mexican organizations control nearly all of the marijuana trafficking in the northern metropolitan portions of the state.
- Marijuana is being brought into the state via parcels and sources of public transportation, such as bus, trains and airplanes.
- Origins of marijuana include Tucson, Phoenix, and Douglas, Arizona; Los Angeles and San Diego, California; El Paso, Texas; Las Vegas, Nevada; Grand Junction, Colorado; and Mexico. Additionally, marijuana is grown locally and trafficked throughout the state.
- Interstates 15 and 70 continue to be common routes utilized by marijuana traffickers in Utah. 77% of seizures marijuana occurred on these interstates, 57% of which occurred on Interstate 70. Of the 57%, 9 of these stops were located near Richfield and 7 were near Salina.
- According to the 6 HIDTA agencies in Utah that submitted semi-annual enforcement reports in 1998, the number of arrests relating to marijuana sales and trafficking in Utah totaled 164. More than 5,399 pounds of marijuana were seized and destroyed.

Methamphetamine:

- The DEA –Rocky Mountain Field Division, reports methamphetamine prices as follows: \$80-\$100 per gram, \$600-\$800 per ounce, and \$9,000-\$12,000 per pound. Also, it was equally reported in the Threat Assessment Survey, that prices for methamphetamine were up, down, and stable. Purity levels for methamphetamine in Utah range from 5% to 100%, which fluctuates with the source, supply and demand, as well as the availability of precursor chemicals. The most popular method of manufacturing methamphetamine in Utah is the red phosphorous, iodine crystal and ephedrine or pseudoephedrine method. The state recently enacted legislation regulating the sale of iodine crystals and ephedrine.
- According to the Utah State Division of Substance Abuse (DSA), the proportion of admissions for methamphetamine as the primary substance of abuse has increased significantly. It is now the 3rd most prevalent drug reported by all clients. The most common route of administration in 1998 was smoking at 41%, 26% injected and 25% inhaled the drug. According to Utah State DSA statistics, clients admitted for methamphetamine use as their primary substance of abuse for FY 1998 were: predominantly white (92%); male (57%); 25 to 44 years of age (60%); not in the labor force (51%); daily users (41%); without health insurance (68%); had dependent child at home (44%); prior admission (46%); and admitted in Salt Lake City (57%).

A total of 2,702 admissions were for methamphetamine in 1998. Methamphetamine admissions from 1992-98 increased by 43%.

- According to the Utah Bureau of Vital Records, Utah occurrences of deaths attributed to methamphetamine are as follows:

| | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 |
|---------------|------|------|------|
| Poisoning | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Accidental | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Suicide | 16 | 11 | 13 |
| Undetermined* | 10 | 5 | 12 |

Also grouped with marijuana and hallucinogens.

- The State of Utah continues to encounter an increasing number of clandestine laboratories, which began approximately two year ago and continues to increase today. Most of these labs are capable of producing small, but steady quantities of methamphetamine. Labs are being set up in cars, moving vans and other mobile locations and moving away from privately owned homes as well as in hotels, along with stolen checks and identifications.
- Some HIDTA agencies in Utah report that the source of methamphetamine is either produced locally, such as within Salt Lake City, or is transported into the area via passenger vehicle from southwest areas such as California, Arizona,, Las Vegas and Mexico. An increasing amount of methamphetamine is being seized along the interstates of Utah. Of particular interest is the trend that much of the methamphetamine seized is destined for Utah and is not necessarily on its way to other areas.
- According to the 1998 ULEIN Pipeline reports, 61% of methamphetamine related traffic stops occurred on Interstate 70, 33% of Interstate 15, and 6% in other areas.
- According to the Semi-Annual Enforcement Reports submitted by the six Utah HIDTA agencies, 456 methamphetamine-related arrests were made in 1998. This accounts for 55% of all drug-related arrests. Using the same data, seizures of methamphetamine in 1998 totaled an estimated 227 pounds. There were 225 clandestine laboratory seizures reported by HIDTA agencies in the state.

Cocaine:

- Cocaine continues to be a problem throughout the state of Utah. Pound quantities are readily available in the “Wasatch Front” which reaches from Provo in the south to Ogden in the north, an area of approximately 85 miles in length. Ski resorts are numerous in the State of Utah and are well known for attracting cocaine traffickers during the ski season. Park City, located in the eastern part of the state is the largest ski resort in Utah. Cocaine is available for as low as \$650 per ounce for quantity purchases and as high as \$1,500. Kilogram quantities are selling between \$19,000 and \$25,000.
- Mexican and Mexican-American individuals and groups transporting it from Southern California, Arizona and Mexico primarily distribute wholesale quantities of cocaine.

- Violence among mid to upper level Hispanic cocaine traffickers continues to escalate. An increased number of weapons (guns) on the street continue to be noticed by law enforcement. Also noticeable is the increase of “home invasion” robberies targeting known drug traffickers.
- It is also reported that not only are the Hispanics heavily involved in cocaine distribution Utah, but Asian and Polynesian gangs are also to a lesser degree.
- Crack cocaine continues to be available in Utah . Street gangs dominate the crack distribution in Utah.
- According to the Utah Division of Substance Abuse, FY 98 Annual Report on the Treatment Episode Data Set (TEDS), a total of 16,619 individuals were admitted for substance treatment throughout Utah. Four major substances dominated FY 98 treatment admissions: Alcohol marijuana, methamphetamine , and cocaine. Together they accounted 87 % of all admissions. Overall, the admission for cocaine as the primary substance of abuse has declined from 13 % in FY97 to 10% in FY 98. This trend was significant among adult females, which dropped from 16.8 % to 12.6% . However, cocaine is still the fourth most prevalent drug of abuse among all treatment clients.
- According to Utah agencies responding to the Rocky Mountain HIDTA Threat Assessment survey, there was a total of 166 cocaine arrests made and 149.83 pounds of cocaine seized for CY 98.

Heroin:

- Heroin is the most expensive of the illicit drugs available, selling for \$3,000 per ounce.⁸
- Heroin use is on the rise in Utah, it is viewed as a serious problem having both Mexican brown and Black Tar easily available in Hispanic communities.
- According to the Utah State Division of Substance Abuse indicates that heroin is the fourth most common primary substance of abuse based on Treatment Episode Data Set.

LSD:

- Utah County Major Crimes Task Force has found LSD on Smarties brand name candy along with methamphetamine. This trend is putting small children at risk of ingesting LSD laced candies in large quantities.

Psilocybin mushrooms:

- Imported into the state via private vehicles from Washington and Oregon.

Juveniles⁹

Initiating behaviors of high school students.

| Utah | Tried marijuana before age 13 | | | Tried cocaine before age 13* | | |
|-------------|-------------------------------|------|------------|------------------------------|------|------------|
| | Female | Male | Total | Female | Male | Total |
| 1997 | 4.3 | 6.9 | 5.8 | 1.1 | 2.5 | 2.0 |

*Including powder, “crack,” or “freebase” forms of cocaine.

High school students' reports of illicit drug use.

| Utah | Lifetime marijuana use* | | | Current marijuana use | | | Marijuana use on school property** | | |
|------|-------------------------|------|-------|-----------------------|------|-------|------------------------------------|------|-------|
| | Female | Male | Total | Female | Male | Total | Female | Male | Total |
| 1997 | 23.3 | 25.0 | 24.8 | 10.8 | 13.5 | 12.3 | 3.4 | 5.8 | 4.7 |

*Ever used marijuana.

**During the 12 months preceding the survey.

High school students' reports of illicit drug use.

| Utah | Lifetime cocaine use* | | | Current cocaine use¶ | | | Lifetime "crack" or "freebase" use§ | | |
|------|-----------------------|------|-------|----------------------|------|-------|-------------------------------------|------|-------|
| | Female | Male | Total | Female | Male | Total | Female | Male | Total |
| 1997 | 4.3 | 5.5 | 5.1 | 2.5 | 3.5 | 3.2 | 3.5 | 5.0 | 4.5 |

*Ever tried any form of cocaine, including powder, "crack," and "freebase."

¶Used cocaine one or more times during the 30 days preceding the survey.

§Ever used "crack" or "freebase."

High school students' reports of illicit drug use.

| Utah | Lifetime illegal steroid use | | | Lifetime Injected drug use | | | Sniffed or inhaled intoxicating substances | | |
|------|------------------------------|------|-------|----------------------------|------|-------|--|------|-------|
| | Female | Male | Total | Female | Male | Total | Female | Male | Total |
| 1997 | 3.2 | 4.6 | 4.2 | 1.9 | 3.7 | 3.0 | 16.3 | 17.0 | 17.0 |

Trafficking and Seizures

- Number of marijuana plants eradicated and seized, arrests, and weapons and assets seized:¹⁰

| Utah | | 1997 | 1998 ¹¹ |
|--------------------|---|---------|--------------------|
| Outdoor Operations | Plots eradicated | 8 | 2 |
| | Cultivated plants eradicated ^a | 1,321 | 3,924 |
| | Ditchweed eradicated ^b | 0 | Unknown |
| Indoor Operations | Grows seized | 1 | 2 |
| | Plants eradicated | 56 | 111 |
| | Total plants eradicated | 1,377 | 4,035 |
| | Number of arrests | 175 | -- |
| | Number of weapons seized | 8 | -- |
| | Value of assets seized | 109,020 | -- |

^aMay include tended ditchweed; see footnote b.

^bDitchweed is a type of marijuana that grows wild.

Enforcement

- In 1997, the State of Utah employed 3,763 officers and 738 correction officers. Also, there were 2.11 officers/corrections officers per 1,000 people in Utah.¹²
- Utah have developed the Utah Law Enforcement Information Network (ULEIN) to provide intelligence information for the State and also to serve as a communication

network through which law enforcement agencies can exchange intelligence information. Other state and local databases are also available.¹³

Courts

Distribution of sentenced offenders by drug type*, FY 1997¹⁴

| | United States | | Utah | |
|----------------------------------|---------------|--------------|--------|--------------|
| | Number | Percentage | Number | Percentage |
| Powder Cocaine | 4,730 | 25.2% | 34 | 47.2% |
| Crack Cocaine | 4,567 | 24.4% | -- | -- |
| Heroin | 1,818 | 9.7% | 1 | 1.3% |
| Marijuana | 5,146 | 27.5% | 11 | 15.2% |
| Methamphetamine | 1,926 | 10.2% | 25 | 34.7% |
| Other | 521 | 2.7% | 1 | 1.3% |
| Total Sentenced for Drugs | -- | 38.7% | -- | 20.6% |

* Of the 17,261 drug cases (including trafficking, use of a communication facility, and simple possession), nine cases with missing drug type were excluded from the bar chart.

Corrections¹⁵

- There were 494 inmates in drug treatment programs on January 1, 1997.
- A total of 5,152 inmate drug tests were completed in 1996.
- Prisoners Under State and Federal Correctional Authority¹⁶

| | Advance 1997 | 1996 | Percent change '96-'97 |
|------------|--------------|-----------|------------------------|
| U.S. Total | 1,182,169 | 1,183,368 | 5.2% |
| Utah | 4,284 | 3,972 | 7.9% |

- Adult Admissions and Releases, 1996, By Selected Offenses¹⁷

| | Sentenced to Prison | Sentenced to Probation | Released from Prison | Average length of Those Released |
|---|---------------------|------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------------|
| Capital Murder | 2 | 0 | 1 | 157.53 |
| Other Murder | 17 | 0 | 3 | 126.88 |
| 1st Degree Offenses Total | 91 | 20 | 40 | 89.56 |
| Person | 25 | 14 | 13 | 76.18 |
| Drug | 1 | 2 | 3 | 53.88 |
| 2nd Degree Offenses Total | 355 | 446 | 278 | 26.89 |
| Person | 86 | 48 | 39 | 34.91 |
| Property | 104 | 140 | 126 | 22.66 |
| Drug | 103 | 199 | 83 | 18.61 |
| 3rd Degree Offenses Total | 1,009 | 2,378 | 777 | 15.15 |
| Person | 134 | 186 | 92 | 19.70 |
| Property | 487 | 1,041 | 383 | 14.30 |

| | | | | |
|-------------|------------|--------------|------------|--------------|
| Drug | 332 | 1,059 | 272 | 12.12 |
|-------------|------------|--------------|------------|--------------|

Treatment

- On October 1, 1997 112 of Utah's treatment facilities held 13,621 clients. Of the total number of clients 42.4% of them were seeking treatment for both alcohol and drug problems, 27.2% for drug problems alone, and 30.4% for only alcohol abuse problems.¹⁸
- Clients entering Utah's substance abuse treatment programs are, for the most part abusing many different substances at the same time. Although 70% of clients report their primary drug of abuse is alcohol, only about 20% report that they abuse alcohol only.¹⁹
- Over half (56% of those who completed treatment who had arrest records two years prior to treatment were arrest free in the three years after treatment. Only just over one-third (34%) in the no treatment group remained arrest free.²⁰

¹ U.S. Census Bureau Web site: <http://www.census.gov>

² U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigations, Uniform Crime Reports, *Crime in the United States*, 1997, November 1998.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Utah Department of Public Safety and the Bureau of Criminal Identification, *Crime in Utah 1997*.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Rocky Mountain High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area, *Utah Excerpts from 1999 Rocky Mountain HIDTA Threat Assessment*.

⁸ State of Utah, Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice. *Drug and Violent Crime Enforcement Control Plan: Three Year Strategy, 1997-1999*. November 1996.

⁹ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance — United States, 1997*, August 1998.

¹⁰ U.S. Department of Justice, Drug Enforcement Administration, *Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program*, 1997.

¹¹ Rocky Mountain High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area, *Utah Excerpts from 1999 Rocky Mountain HIDTA Threat Assessment*.

¹² Utah Department of Public Safety and the Bureau of Criminal Identification, *Crime in Utah 1997*.

¹³ Rocky Mountain High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area, *Utah Excerpts from 1999 Rocky Mountain HIDTA Threat Assessment*.

¹⁴ U.S. Sentencing Commission, 1997 Datafile, OPAFY97.

¹⁵ U.S. Department of Justice, Corrections Program Office, *State Efforts to Reduce Drug Use Among Offenders*, October 1998.

¹⁶ U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Prisoners in 1997*, August 1998.

¹⁷ Utah Department of Corrections, Utah Department of Public Safety, *Crime in Utah 1996* <http://www.bci.state.ut.us/crimebook/default.html>

¹⁸ Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, *Uniform Facility Data Set (UFDS) 1997 - Data on Substance Abuse Treatment Facilities*, June 1999.

¹⁹ Utah Department of Human Services Web site: <http://www.hsdhs.state.ut.us/>

²⁰ Utah Department of Human Services, *Societal Outcomes of Alcohol and Other Drug and Treatment in the State of Utah: An Executive Summary*, January 1997.

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